AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #208

BOOK TWO: EARTH
CHAPTER EIGHT: "The Chase"

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ACT I

EXT. WOODED AREA - LATE AFTERNOON

Sokka is on Appa unloading supplies while the rest of the group is looking around the area. Toph walks barefoot through a pile of shed Appa fur.

TOPH
Hey, you guys picked a great campsite. The grass is so soft.

Sokka lifts up a sleeping bag covered in fur.

SOKKA
That’s not grass -- Appa’s shedding.

KATARA
Oh, gross!

AANG
That’s not gross -- it's just a part of spring. You know, rebirth, flowers blooming, and Appa gets a new coat.

Katara looks at Appa. There are large thick poofs all over his body where his fur is shedding.

KATARA
Ahh... the beauty of spring.

Appa scratches at the hair poofs on his body -- fur goes all over Katara and in her mouth.

KATARA (cont’d)
Stop, Appa! Stop! (DISGUSTED SOUNDS AND SPITTING)

SOKKA (O.S.)
It’s not that bad, Katara.

Reveal Sokka with Appa fur piled on top of his head like a beehive wig.

SOKKA (cont’d)
It makes a great wig.

AANG
And a great beard!

Reveal Aang wearing the Appa fur on his face like an oversized beard. Katara looks at both of them and shakes her head.

KATARA
I'm just glad we finally have another girl in the group because you two are disgusting.

Just then, Toph appears from behind Appa with Appa fur sticking out from under her armpits.

TOPH
Excuse me, does anyone have a razor? Because I got some hair-ry pits!

Aang LAUGHS so hard that he SNEEZES off his Appa fur beard. Katara is a little disgusted by Toph but FORCES A LAUGH. Sokka (whose Appa wig has fallen off) hops off Appa with some supplies, and begins to make camp. Katara walks up to Toph.

KATARA
So Toph... usually when setting up camp, we try to divide up the work.

TOPH
Hey, don't worry about me -- I'm good to go.

KATARA
Well, actually what I'm trying to say is... some of us might fetch water, while someone else might set up the fire pit or put up the tent. Even Momo does his fair share.

Angle on Momo who has collected a pile of nuts for everyone.

MOMO
(CHITTERS)

TOPH
Katara, I'm fine -- I can carry my own weight. I don't need a fire, I already collected my own food, and look...

Toph does an Earthbending move by stomping the ground -- suddenly a small adobe-style igloo pops up.

TOPH (cont'd)
My tent's all set up!

KATARA
Well that’s great for you. But we still need to finish--

TOPH
(frustrated)
I don’t understand what’s the problem here?!

Katara opens her mouth about to really get into it -- but then stops herself.

KATARA
Never mind...

Katara walks away.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

Toph is sitting next to her Earth-tent as everyone else finishes setting up the camp.

AANG
Sorry!

Katara walks up to Toph.

KATARA
Hey Toph, I wanted to apologize for earlier. I think we’re all just a little tired and getting on each other’s nerves.

TOPH
Yeah, you do seem pretty tired.

KATARA
I meant all of us...

TOPH
Well, good night.

KATARA
(awkward)
Good night.

Toph enters her Earth-tent and everyone else settles in to sleep. The campsite is quiet for a beat. Then, Toph’s door suddenly slides opens and she rushes out into the middle of the campsite.

TOPH
There’s something coming toward us!

Aang gets up. Katara and Sokka climb out of their tents.

AANG
What is it?

Toph twists her foot slightly -- feeling the ground.

TOPH
It feels like an avalanche -- but also not an avalanche.

SOKKA
(feigning amazement)
Your powers of perception are frightening.

KATARA
(to Sokka)
Should we leave?

AANG
Better safe than sorry.

EXT. SKY ON APPA - ABOVE WOODED AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Appa flies into the night sky with the kids on board. The kids look into the far distance. The kids are barely able to see the silhouette of a strange machine traveling across the plains. It is an iron clad hybrid vehicle -- basically a cross between a train and a tank. There is a fire burning inside of it and black smoke bellows from its engine. The kids stare in awe.

KATARA
What is that thing?

No one answers. Aang pulls on the reins and Appa banks -- the kids fly away from the strange tank.

EXT. SECOND CAMPSITE - LATER THAT NIGHT

Appa lands in a small clearing in the woods -- the kids are all tired. Toph grabs her stuff and is the first one to jump off Appa. She is relieved to feel the ground beneath her feet.

TOPH
Ahh... land, sweet land.
(beat)
See you guys in the morning.

Katara jumps down after her.

KATARA
Actually, can you help us unload?

TOPH
Really? You need me to help unload Sokka's funky smelling sleeping bag?

KATARA
Well, yeah... that and everything else. You're a part of our team now, and--

TOPH
Look, I didn't ask you to help unload my stuff. I'm carrying my own weight.

KATARA
That's not the point--

Toph ignores her and walks away. We see Sokka holding his sleeping bag standing next to Aang -- they have been listening. Sokka sniffs his sleeping bag, and makes a face. Katara is getting frustrated -- she catches up with Toph.

KATARA (cont'd)
Ever since you joined us, you've been nothing but selfish and unhelpful!

TOPH
What?! Look here, Sugar Queen, I gave up everything I had so that I could teach Aang Earthbending. So don't you talk to me about being selfish!

With that, Toph SLAMS her foot on the ground, violently Earthbending an Earth-tent.

KATARA
(appalled)
Sugar Queen?! Did you just slam the door in my face?! How can you be so infuriating?!

Sokka, Aang and Momo are watching the fight.

AANG
Should we do something?

SOKKA
Hey, I'm just enjoying the show.

Toph storms into her Earth-tent, and Earthbends the door shut in Katara's face. Katara pauses for a beat, aghast. She then POUNDS on the door. Aang suddenly shows up, trying to calm her down.

AANG
Okay, okay -- you both need to calm down.

KATARA
(offended)
Both? I'm completely calm!

Aang nods and smiles, but backs away slowly.

AANG
I can see that.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SECOND CAMPSITE - LATER

Appa is now unloaded and everyone is settling in to sleep. Katara is still frustrated as she lays down on her sleeping bag. She stares up at the night sky.

KATARA
The stars sure are beautiful tonight. Too bad you can't see them, TOPH!

Toph answers back with a loud BOOM -- a second later a rock pokes out of the ground and shoves Katara, causing her to roll into Sokka.

SOKKA
Hey, how's a guy supposed to sleep with all this yelling and earthquaking?!

Toph's door suddenly opens and she comes rushing out.

TOPH
That thing is back!

Aang and Katara bolt awake. Sokka doesn't get up.

SOKKA
(desperate for sleep)
Well, how far away is it?
(MORE)

SOKKA(cont'd)
Maybe we can close our eyes just for a few minutes.

AANG
I don’t think so, Sokka.

Aang stares at a large plume of black smoke bellowing into the sky above the trees.

EXT. SKY ON APPA - ABOVE SECOND CAMPSITE - MOMENTS LATER

The kids fly away from their campsite for the second time that night. From high in the sky, they catch another far off glimpse of the tank-train. They stare in awe.

KATARA
Seriously, what is that thing?

TOPH
And how does it keep finding us?

AANG
I don’t know, but this time I’m going to make sure we lose them.

Aang steers Appa to...

EXT. SKY ON APPA - VARIOUS LOCATIONS - THAT NIGHT

The kids fly over a high mountain and a steep cliff. Aang even steers Appa through a tight ravine.

EXT. THIRD CAMPSITE - LATER THAT NIGHT

The kids have just landed -- they are visibly tired with bags under their eyes. They climb off Appa.

SOKKA
Okay, forget about setting up camp. I’m finding the softest pile of dirt and going to sleep.

KATARA
That’s good because Toph wasn’t going to help anyway.

TOPH
(firing back at Katara)
Oh, I didn’t realize baby still needed someone to tuck her in bed!

AANG
Come on, guys. There's something after us and we don't even know what, or who, it is.

KATARA
It could be Zuko. We haven't seen him since the North Pole.

TOPH
Who's Zuko?

SOKKA
Oh, just some angry freak with a ponytail who's tracked us all over the world.

KATARA
What's wrong with ponytails, ponytail?

She gives his ponytail a tug.

SOKKA
<u>This</u>... is a warrior's <u>wolf</u> tail.

KATARA
Well, it certainly tells the other warriors that you're fun and perky.

Sokka comically lies on the ground trying to fall asleep -- Momo curls up next to him.

SOKKA
(tired)
Anyway, whoever's chasing us, they couldn't have followed us here. Now would everyone just, shh...

Sokka closes his eyes and relaxes his head. The kids unroll their sleeping bags and lay down on them. Suddenly, Momo's ears perk up and he CHITTERS, waking Sokka.

SOKKA (cont'd)
No Momo, shh... sleepy time.

Momo continues to CHITTER. Toph suddenly stands up.

SOKKA (cont'd)
(realizing)
Oh, don't tell me...

AANG
That’s impossible! There’s no way they could have tracked us.

TOPH
I can feel it with my own two feet!

All the kids are up now. They see the tank-train rise over a hill in the distance.

KATARA
Let’s get out of here!

AANG
Maybe we should face them, find out who they are. Who knows, maybe they’re friendly.

SOKKA
(shaking his head)
Always the optimist.

The kids watch as the tank-train comes to a stop two hundred yards away. A steam valve releases and the doors of the train slowly open. It is a long, suspenseful moment.

Suddenly, Azula, Mai and Ty Lee charge out of the tank-train riding mongoose-dragons! (This is an Avatar-style, hybrid animal. It is a cross between a giant mongoose and a Jesus Lizard. While on land, the animal walks on all fours like a mongoose but when crossing water, it stands on its hind legs and flares its neck to run across water.) The kids watch stunned as the girls charge toward them.

END OF ACT I

ACT II

EXT. THIRD CAMPSITE - CONTINUOUS

Azula, Mai and Ty Lee continue to charge at the kids, getting closer and closer.

KATARA
It’s those three girls from Omashu!

TOPH
We can take them -- three on three!

SOKKA
Actually Toph, there’s four of us.

Toph turns to Sokka , realizing.

TOPH
Oh, I’m sorry. I didn’t count you. You know... no bending and all.

SOKKA
(offended)
I can still fight!

TOPH
Okay... three on three-plus-Sokka.

Toph begins attacking doing several Earthbending moves. The ground shoots up creating obstacles in front of Azula and her girls. But the mongoose dragons swiftly maneuver around them. Azula, Mai and Ty Lee are getting even closer. Toph does more Earthbending moves, creating walls in front of them. But Azula unleashes an explosive fire blast that destroys the walls in front of her and clears a path.

The kids suddenly look very worried.

SOKKA
Well, we wanted to find out who they were and we’ve found out -- now let’s get out of here!

The kids quickly shuffle onto Appa, dodging Mai’s throwing-stars and stilettos which stick into trees near them.

AANG
Appa, Yip, yip!

Appa leaps into the air just before a fire blast from Azula explodes where they were.

EXT. SKY ON APPA - SUNRISE

The kids are exhausted as they ride on Appa.

KATARA
I can't believe those girls followed us all the way from Omashu.

TOPH
I still think we could have taken 'em.

KATARA
Are you kidding me?! The crazy blue Firebending and the flying daggers are bad enough -- but last time we saw them, one of those girls did something that took my bending away. That's scary!

The sun begins to rise. Sokka looks very worried.

SOKKA
Oh no, the sun is rising -- we've been up all night with no sleep!

AANG
Sokka, we'll be okay.

Sokka stands up and begins comically panicking.

SOKKA
Are you sure?! I've never not slept before! What if I fall asleep now and something happens... and something <u>always</u> happens!

KATARA
Every time we land, those girls are there. So we'll just have to keep flying.

Aang says what everyone is thinking.

AANG
We can't keep flying forever...

EXT. LARGE FIELD - SUNRISE

The tank-train chugs along through an open field -- black smoke bellows from its engine. The spiky tires leave track marks in the dirt.

After the tank-train passes, a TRAVELER steps out of the adjacent woods, his ostrich horse in tow. He is wearing a long robe and a rice hat, we do not see his face. The traveler bends down and examines the tank-train track marks. He looks into the distance where the tracks lead. We see who it is -- it's Zuko.

EXT. SKY ON APPA - MORNING

The kids are extremely tired and it shows. They are slumped in the saddle and they can barely lift their heads to talk to each other.

AANG
So what's our plan?

TOPH
Don't know. Too tired to think.

KATARA
I'm sure we'll come up with something after a short nap.

SOKKA
Yes. Sleep.

The kids get comfortable and are just about to fall asleep when suddenly they wake up with a jolt -- Appa is falling out of the sky! The kids SCREAM and hang on for dear life.

TOPH
(yelling)
What's going on?!

AANG
Appa fell asleep!

We see that Appa's eyes are closed as they torpedo toward the ground. Aang hangs upside down, yelling at Appa.

AANG (cont'd)
Wake up buddy!

Appa groggily opens his eyes then suddenly realizes he's falling toward the ground. He BELLOWS then quickly levels off, skimming the tops of trees.

99 Reveal the kids comically relieved as if they just finished a scary roller coaster ride. Toph is laying flat, gripping the saddle as tight as she can. Sokka's hair is extremely wind blown. Appa BELLOWS and is still slowly losing altitude. 99

AANG (cont'd)
Appa's exhausted.

EXT. RIVERSIDE CLEARING - MOMENTS LATER

Appa lands and lays down flat on his belly. His head rests on the ground. The kids get off Appa. Reveal Appa, already sound asleep and SNORING.

SOKKA
Okay, we've put a lot of distance between us and them. The plan right now is to follow Appa's lead and get some sleep!

KATARA
(placing blame)
Of course we could've gotten some sleep earlier if Toph didn't have such issues.

Toph is shocked at what Katara just said.

TOPH
What?!

Aang quickly interjects.

AANG
Alright, alright. Everyone's exhausted, let's just get some rest.

TOPH
No, I want to hear what Katara has to say. You think I have issues?

KATARA
I'm just saying, maybe if you helped out earlier we could have set up our camp faster and gotten some sleep. And then maybe we wouldn't be in this situation.

TOPH
You're blaming <u>me</u> for this?!

Aang steps in between Toph and Katara to diffuse the fight.

AANG
No, no. She's not blaming you...

KATARA
No, I'm blaming her.

Toph brushes Aang aside using Earthbending.

TOPH
Hey, I never asked you for diddley doo-dah, I carry my own weight!

Toph takes a step. Her foot lands on a pile of Appa fur -- she feels it with her toes.

TOPH (cont'd)
Besides, if there's anyone to blame it's Sheddy over here!

AANG
(stunned)
What? You're blaming Appa?

TOPH
Yeah. You want to know how they keep finding us?

Toph grabs a tuft of Appa fur and releases it into the wind.

TOPH (cont'd)
He's leaving a trail everywhere we go!

Aang, who has been trying to keep the peace, suddenly becomes very angry and defensive of Appa.

AANG
How dare you blame Appa? He saved your life three times today!

Aang is really getting mad and moves closer to Toph.

AANG (cont'd)
If there's anyone to blame, it's you! You're always talking about how you "carry your own weight" -- But you're not -- he is! Appa's carrying your weight! He never had a problem flying when it was just the three of us.

Everyone is silent and motionless after Aang's outburst. Toph doesn't move for a beat but then picks up her bag and walks away.

TOPH
I'm outta here.

Sokka makes a move to stop her.

SOKKA
Wait...

Toph shoves him away and disappears into the forest, leaving the group.

EXT. ROCKY HILLSIDE - DAY

A trail of Appa fur is falling from the sky, glistening in the sunlight. It gently lands on the rocky terrain. A moment later, the ground shakes and the tank-train appears, following the fur trail. We pan up to the top of the tank-train and reveal that Zuko is lying flat on top of the train, hiding.

EXT. RIVERSIDE CLEARING - DAY

The kids are upset and apologetic about what just happened.

AANG
What did I just do? I can’t believe I yelled at my Earthbending teacher... now she’s gone.

KATARA
(very apologetic)
I know. We’re all just trying to get used to each other -- and I was so mean to her...

SOKKA
Yeah, you two were pretty much jerks.

KATARA
Thanks, Sokka.

SOKKA
No problem.

KATARA
We need to find Toph and apologize.

SOKKA
Okay, but what are we going to do about the tank full of dangerous ladies chasing us?

Aang looks at Appa who is sleeping.

AANG
I have a plan.

EXT. RIVERSIDE CLEARING - A SHORT TIME LATER

There is Appa fur everywhere -- even in the water, damming up the river. Appa floats in the river. Aang and Katara are on top of him, washing off his shedding fur with Waterbending.

AANG
Toph was right. Appa's fur was leaving a trail right to us. But now that he's clean, no more trail.

Katara and Aang finish hosing off Appa. The three of them climb out of the river and stand next to Sokka.

KATARA
Are you sure Appa's okay to fly?

AANG
He'll be fine as long as we leave his saddle and all our stuff here.

Aang grabs a handful of Appa fur.

AANG (cont'd)
I'm going to use Appa's fur to make a fake trail, and lead the tank off course.

EXT. RIVERSIDE CLEARING - A SHORT TIME LATER

Aang watches as Appa takes off with Katara and Sokka aboard. He takes his satchel full of Appa fur and puts it over his shoulder. Aang opens his glider and takes off, heading in the other direction. He reaches in his satchel and sprinkles the Appa fur as he goes.

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Toph walks through the forest when she suddenly freezes -- she feels something. Toph shifts her foot on the ground, feeling the vibrations. In one quick move, she turns around and does an Earthbending move. The ground shoots up a few yards away, knocking SOMEONE down. Toph quickly rushes over to the stranger now lying on his back. She stands above him, poised to attack.

UNCLE
Ow, that really hurt my tail bone.

We reveal that the stranger is Uncle Iroh.

EXT. RIVERSIDE CLEARING - DAY

In the distance, the tank-train comes to a stop. Azula, Mai and Ty Lee exit the train riding on their mongoose dragons. They ride up to the clearing where the kids just were. They circle the area. Azula inspects the saddle and supplies. Ty Lee sees the fur.

MAI
Wads of wet fur... how delightful.

TY LEE
(thoughtful)
Hmm. They're not wads, they're more like... bundles... or bunches? It's got an "uh" sound...

MAI
(deadpan)
Uh... clumps?

TY LEE
Clumps! They're clumps.

She gives Mai a hug. Mai shakes her head.

MAI
The trail goes this way.

Mai points in the direction that Aang went. Azula looks in that direction and then she looks at all the Appa fur floating in the river -- she is thinking. Azula then looks up at some broken branches in the other direction.

AZULA
The Avatar is trying to give us the slip.

She points in the direction that Sokka, Katara and Momo went.

AZULA (cont'd)
You two head in that direction and keep your eye out for the bison. I'll follow this trail.

Azula and the girls split up. Azula follows the Appa fur trail and Mai and Ty Lee head toward Sokka and Katara.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

EXT. SKY - DAY

Aang flies through the sky on his glider, sprinkling a trail of Appa fur as he goes. He sees a deserted town on the countryside and heads toward it.

EXT. DESERTED TOWN - DAY

Aang lands and looks around -- the town has obviously been deserted for some time. Vines are overgrown on the sides of old, decrepit buildings, everything is dirty and the place is extremely quiet. A tumble weevil rolls through the middle of the street (This is the Avatar version of a tumble weed. It looks like a tumbleweed when rolling, but when it stops and begins walking, it is just an extremely large weevil). The tumble weevil rolls for a little ways but then stops and scurries away. Aang reaches in his satchel and pulls out the last of his Appa fur. He walks through the town, continuing with his Appa fur trail. He finishes the trail in the center of town. He opens his glider to leave -- but he hesitates for a moment. He looks back at the trail he has just left behind him. A look of determination comes over his face as he decides not to keep running. He closes his glider, turns, and firmly plants his staff in the ground. The trail now leads to him.

EXT. SKY ON APPA - DAY

Katara, Sokka and Momo fly on Appa, looking for Toph.

SOKKA
Toph couldn’t have made it too far.

Suddenly, Momo begins chittering.

SOKKA (cont’d)
(realizing half way)
What is it, Mo-moh... no! Katara!

Katara rushes over to where Sokka is. They both look over the side of Appa. Below them, Mai and Ty Lee are catching up, riding on the backs of their mongoose dragon.

KATARA
How did they find us!

Sokka grabs Appa’s reins. Below, their pursuers are gaining quickly.

SOKKA
Appa, come on! We need to go faster!

Appa pushes himself and does speed up, but the mongoose dragons are fast too. Appa MOURNFULLY BELLOWS and begins to lose altitude.

KATARA
He’s too tired.

SOKKA
Not good, not good!

Appa is getting lower and lower to the ground and the girls are getting closer and closer to them. Sokka notices a large river cutting through the land.

SOKKA (cont’d)
We just need to make it across that river...

Katara looks back at the girls then at the river.

KATARA
Come on, Appa. Just a little further.

Appa BELLOWS and pushes himself to his limit. He skims across the river and just barely makes it to...

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF RIVER - CONTINUOUS

Appa manages to land safely but can’t go any further -- his body collapses and he breathes heavily. Katara and Sokka jump off Appa and watch as Ty Lee and Mai race towards them, separated by the river.

SOKKA
We made it -- we’re safe!

KATARA
You did it, Appa!

The kids share a relieved hug, but their expressions change as it becomes a terrified squeeze.

The mongoose dragons reach the opposite river bank and immediately stand up on their hind legs, and CHARGE ACROSS THE WATER like Jesus lizards.

Mai and Ty Lee continue to race across the water on their mongoose dragons. Katara quickly reacts -- she Waterbends underneath Ty Lee’s mongoose dragon, causing it to sink into the water. But Ty Lee does an amazing flip off the sinking mongoose dragon and lands in front of Katara.

(NOTE: Ty Lee's mongoose dragon swims to safety in the background.) The two begin to fight. Ty Lee does amazing acrobatics as Katara attacks with Waterbending -- it is an even fight. Meanwhile, Sokka and Mai face off. She attacks with her throwing stars while Sokka defends himself with his club and boomerang -- it is also an even fight.

SOKKA
Good try, but no.

At one point, Katara and Sokka are back to back, fending off their opponents.

SOKKA (cont'd)
(to Katara)
How you doing?

KATARA
Well, you know...

MAI
I thought when we finally caught you guys it would be more exciting. Oh well, victory is boring.

Suddenly, there is a big attack and Katara and Sokka simultaneously roll out of the way. When they recover they notice they are now facing the other's opponent. Sokka is now fighting Ty Lee and Katara is fighting Mai -- but Katara and Sokka are getting tired.

Katara's Waterbending becomes sloppy and sluggish. Mai is able to throw a stiletto, pinning Katara to a tree.

Katara continues to defend herself but Mai throws more and more stilettos, pinning Katara even more. Mai draws her three section staff and closes in.

Sokka is also fighting sloppy -- Ty Lee takes advantage of this and is able to get in close. She tries to do her signature attack to block Sokka's chi, but Sokka grabs her wrist at the last second.

Sokka swings his boomerang at Ty Lee but she dodges it, flipping onto Mai's mongoose dragon. She pulls the reins and the mongoose dragon stands on its hind legs, neck flared. Sokka stares at the beast about to attack him. He braces himself when...

APPA (O.S.)
(ROARING BELLOW)

Reveal Appa -- he attacks the mongoose dragon, knocking Ty Lee off. The mongoose dragon runs away in fear.

Mai and Ty Lee turn to face Appa, who is moving in to attack. Before the girls can react, Appa does an awesome Airbending move with his tail, sweeping them into the rushing river. Sokka runs up to him.

SOKKA
Thanks, Appa. I don't know what we'd do without you.

Reveal that Katara is still pinned to the tree.

EXT. DOWN RIVER - MOMENTS LATER

We see Ty Lee and Mai where they have landed in the river. They begins slogging out of the river with their clothes dripping wet.

TY LEE
Was it just me, or was that guy kind of cute?

Mai glares at her.

EXT. DESERTED TOWN - AFTERNOON

It is late in the day and the shadows are long. Aang is standing in the middle of town when Azula appears. Azula stops about ten yards away. Aang and Azula face one another.

AANG
Alright, you've caught up with me. Now who are you and what do you want?

AZULA
You mean you haven't guessed? You don't see the family resemblance? Here's a hint...

She covers one eye with her hand and does a raspy serious voice.

AZULA (cont'd)
(mocking)
I must find the Avatar to restore my honor.
(beat, off Aang's non-reaction)
It's okay, you can laugh -- it's funny.

There is a beat.

AANG
So what now?

Suddenly, she turns deadly serious.

AZULA
Now? Now it’s over. You’re tired and you have no place to go. You can run, but I’ll catch you.

Aang looks her in the eyes, determined.

AANG
I’m not running.

EXT. FOREST - SIMULTANEOUS

Uncle Iroh and Toph are relaxing in the woods together. Uncle has made a pot of tea and is pouring a cup for Toph.

UNCLE
Here is your tea. You seem a little too young to be traveling alone.

TOPH
You seem a little too old.

UNCLE
(LAUGHS) Perhaps I am.

Uncle holds out a cup of tea for Toph. Toph reaches for it, feeling the air, then finding the cup in Uncle’s hand. Uncle notices she is blind.

TOPH
I know what you’re thinking -- I look like I can’t handle being by myself.

UNCLE
I wasn’t thinking that.

TOPH
You wouldn’t even let me pour my own cup of tea.

UNCLE
I poured your tea because I wanted to, and for no other reason.

TOPH
People see me and think I'm weak -- they want to take care of me. But I can take care of myself by myself.

UNCLE
You sound like my nephew! Always thinking you need to do things on your own, without anyone's support. There is nothing wrong with letting people who love you help you. Not that I love you -- I just met you.

TOPH
(LAUGHS) So... where is your nephew?

UNCLE
I've been tracking him, actually.

TOPH
Is he lost?

Uncle takes a sip of his tea before answering.

UNCLE
Yes. A little bit.
(beat)
His life has recently changed and he's going through very difficult times -- he's trying to figure out who he is. And he went away.

TOPH
So now you're following him.

Uncle nods.

UNCLE
I know he doesn't want me around right now. But if he needs me -- I'll be there.

TOPH
Your nephew is very lucky, even if he doesn't know it.

Toph finishes her tea, and gets up to leave.

TOPH (cont'd)
Thank you.

UNCLE
My pleasure! Sharing tea with a fascinating stranger is one of life’s true delights.

TOPH
No... thank you for what you said.
(beat, smiles)
It helped me.

UNCLE
I’m glad.

Toph turns back around before she leaves.

TOPH
Oh, and about your nephew. Maybe you should tell him that you need him too.

Off Uncle’s reaction...

EXT. DESERTED TOWN - SUNSET

Aang and Azula are still facing off in the middle of town.

AZULA
Do you really want to fight me?

ZUKO (O.S.)
Yes, I really do.

Azula and Aang turn to see Zuko.

AANG
(sotto, surprised)
Zuko!

AZULA
I was wondering when you’d show up, Zu-Zu.

AANG
(STIFLING A LAUGH) “Zu-zu?”

Zuko clenches his fists, threatening his sister.

ZUKO
Back off, Azula. He’s mine.

Azula looks sharply into Zuko’s eyes.

AZULA
I’m not going anywhere.

This is a long, tense moment as the three of them face off in the middle of town. Who is the bigger threat? Who is going to fire on whom? Zuko is tense and jumpy, Aang is nervous, but Azula is calm -- almost enjoying herself.

There is a close up of Zuko as he looks from Aang to Azula. There is a close up of Azula’s eyes as she stares back at him. She almost smiles for a moment when suddenly she sends a fire blast at Zuko! The fight is on.

They attack each other in an awesome three-way fight. Aang is mostly defensive, trying to escape. Zuko is trying to get close to Aang but must also fight off Azula. Azula, meanwhile, is aggressively attacking both of them. During the fight, allegiances are formed and quickly broken. Azula and Zuko work together for a beat when Aang tries to make a break for it -- but they are soon enemies again and continue to attack each other. Zuko and Aang work together for a short moment when Azula is attacking both of them.

The three of them use everything they can from the abandoned town in the fight. Aang leaps through the rafters of an old barn, avoiding the fire blasts from Azula and Zuko. Zuko leaps into a mining cart, shielding himself from his sister’s attack. The fight rages from building to building and soon the town begins to catch on fire.

Azula is clearly in control of this fight and proves it when they enter an abandoned store. Azula fire blasts Zuko through a wall, knocking him out into the street -- Zuko is unconscious. The store is now on fire. Azula turns her attention to Aang, viciously attacking him -- backing him into a corner. Azula continues attacking Aang who is now surrounded by fire with nowhere to go. Suddenly, the fire SIZZLES out. Azula turns around and sees Katara standing there -- she has Waterbended the fire out. Aang is happy to see Katara.

AANG
Katara!

AZULA
(ANGRY ATTACKING SOUND)

Azula quickly turns around, attacking Katara. Aang jumps up and the fight spills back out into the center of town. Sokka joins in too and the fight is suddenly three on one -- but surprisingly Azula is still handling them all.

ZUKO
Uncle.

UNCLE
Get up.

The fight continues for a moment when suddenly the ground shakes and Toph appears -- she's back.

TOPH
I thought you guys could use a little help.

KATARA
Thanks.

Moments later, Uncle appears too. He sees Prince Zuko, still out cold, and rushes up to help him. Zuko wakes up and looks at his Uncle for the first time in days.

Uncle grabs Zuko and helps him off the ground. They look over at the fighting and quickly rush over to help in the fight against Azula -- it is now six on one.

Azula is fighting and dodging attacks coming from every direction -- she is truly awesome. But the fighting slows down and then comes to a stop as Azula looks around and realizes that she is surrounded.

Katara, Sokka, Aang, Toph, Zuko and Iroh are in a circle around Azula, all in fighting stances. Azula looks around at everyone surrounding her. She glares extra long at Zuko and Uncle.

AZULA
Well look at this... enemies and traitors, all working together.

She raises her hands in defeat, and begins turning in a slow circle.

AZULA (cont'd)
I'm done. I know when I'm beaten -- you got me. A princess surrenders with honor.

Just when it seems she truly has surrendered, her face changes. In a fraction of a second, Azula manages to send a powerful lightning blast at Uncle Iroh, hitting him directly in the chest!

Instantly, everyone sends an attack at Azula but Azula (who was anticipating this) dodges the attacks. The attacks become crossfire, hitting the person across from them. In this moment of confusion, Azula manages to escape.

Zuko rushes over to his Uncle who is lying on his back, gripping his chest in pain. Zuko holds his head, trying to keep him calm. The kids crowd around to help.

ZUKO
Get away from us!

KATARA
Zuko, I can help.

Zuko aggressively sends a fire blast over everyone’s head.

ZUKO
Leave!

The kids jump back and pause for a moment but finally turn around and leave. Zuko continues to comfort his Uncle.

EXT. FOURTH CAMPSITE - NIGHT

Appa lands at a new site. Without a word, everyone gets off, lies down, cuddles up, and goes to sleep. Cutest ending ever.

END OF SHOW